**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

All pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #), or previously re-presented). Please AMEND claims 1-6 and 8-25 in accordance with the following:

1.     (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time stored on an individual self contained computer readable content medium, the content medium indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which a content on the content medium can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time; ~~and~~

a requestor for submitting a request when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the content.

2.     (currently amended) A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a locked content ~~effective~~ requestable period thereof; and

a key receiver for receiving a key for unlocking the locked content.

3.     (currently amended) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said server submits a request to a center when the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

4.     (currently amended) A sales system comprising:

a terminal comprising:

a period reader reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time stored on a self contained independent computer readable content medium indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which a content can be served by submitting a request to a center;

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a present time generator for generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time; and

a requestor submitting a request to a center for obtaining use of the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a key for unlocking the content when the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.


5.    (currently amended) A sales system according to claim 4, wherein said center further comprises a database registered with the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time of the content.


6.    (currently amended) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said terminal further comprises a second comparator comparing an ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time and determining whether the present time is within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.


7.    (previously presented)  A terminal according to claim 2, wherein said terminal further comprises:

a disk for storing the contents; and

an installer installing a loader for the content.


8.    (currently amended) A sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a period data changer changing period data indicating a serving period of the contents; and

wherein said terminal further comprising:

a second comparator comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the serving period and determining whether the serving period lies within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.


9.    (currently amended) A self contained computer readable storage medium which contains locked content, ~~an effective~~ a requestable period concerning the locked content, and a program executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

reads the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period or falls outside the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the locked content when the present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

uses a key to unlock the locked content stored thereon when the present time falls within said requestable period of time.

10.    (currently amended) A self contained computer readable storage medium including both locked content and ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time concerning the locked content, the storage device is accessed by a computer,

wherein said computer:

reads the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time or falls outside of said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

uses a key to unlock the locked content stored thereon when the present time falls within said requestable period of time to ~~allows~~ access to the locked content if the judging determines the present time data falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

11.    (currently amended) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time is written as single terminal data indicating starting or ending time interval.

12.    (currently amended) A self-contained computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time, stored on the computer-readable medium, indicating a period of time during which a locked content on the ~~disk~~ medium can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period _of time_ with the present time;

judges that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period _of time_ or falls outside of said ~~effective~~ requestable period _of time_; and

sends a requestor ~~for submitting a request~~ to request a key for the _locked_ content if the judging determines the present time data falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period _of time_, to a center for obtaining use of the _locked_ content.


13.    (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads ~~an effective~~ a requestable period _of time_, stored on a self contained computer readable content medium indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which _a locked_ content stored on the content medium can be served;

a clock for indicating a present time;

a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

a requestor for submitting a request _for a key_ for the _locked_ content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the _locked_ content.


14.    (currently amended) A sales system comprising:

a self contained independent computer readable content medium storing a locked content and ~~an effective~~ a requestable period _of time_ for the locked content;

a center which provides a key to unlock the locked content when a present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period _of time_;


15.    (currently amended) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period _of time_ stored on a self contained independent computer readable medium indicating a serving period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period _of time_ stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requesting_s a key from_ ~~to~~ a center ~~for obtaining~~ to obtain the _locked_ content when the comparing determines that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

16.    (currently amended) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a locked content on a self contained independent computer readable storage medium, the medium including ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time concerning the locked content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

using a requestor for submitting a request for a key when the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time, the request made to a center for obtaining use of the locked content..

17.    (currently amended) A self contained independent computer readable storage medium comprising:

a locked content stored on the medium assessable by a user via a computer;

requestable period of time data stored with the locked content on the medium indicating ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time during which the locked content can be accessed by the user;

a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the locked content by the user if a present date falls outside of the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time indicated by the period data; and

a requesting unit for submitting a request for a key when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the locked content, the request submitted to a center for obtaining use of the locked content.

18.    (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time, stored on a disk, indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which a locked content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize

the locked content, when the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requests ~~to~~ a center for ~~obtaining~~ a key to obtain use of the locked content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

19.    (currently amended) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating an ~~effective~~ requestable period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the requestable period of time stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requesting ~~to~~ a center ~~for obtaining~~ for a key to obtain use of a locked content stored on the medium storing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

20.    (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which a locked content stored directly on the content medium released to end users can be served;

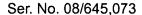a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for a key to access the locked content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

21.    (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which a locked content stored directly on the content medium can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time; and

a requesting unit requesting a key for a service of the locked content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

22.    (currently amended) An independent self contained computer readable storage medium released to end users which contains locked content, ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time concerning the locked content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein said program:

reads the ~~effective~~ requestable period directly from the storage medium;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time or falls outside the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requests ~~to~~ a key from a center ~~for obtaining~~ to obtain use of the locked content if the judging judges that the present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

23.    (currently amended) A self contained computer readable storage medium readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a locked content on the medium including ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time concerning the locked content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time;

generates present time data indicating a present time; and

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

a requesting unit requesting a key for service of the locked content when the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said requestable period of time.

24.    (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time, stored on a disk, indicating the ~~effective~~

requestable period of time during which a locked content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the locked content, when the present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requests the locked content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.

25.      (currently amended)  A method for ascertaining whether a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading ~~an effective~~ a requestable period of time stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time during which the computer readable storage medium can be accessed;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time stored on the storage medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the ~~effective~~ requestable period of time; and

requesting a key for retrieval of a locked content stored on the storage medium when said comparing determines that said present time falls within said ~~effective~~ requestable period of time.